

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently amended) A method for treating a localized portion of body tissue
2 comprising:

- 3 a) inserting a needle apparatus in a body, said apparatus including at least
4 one hollow core needle for delivering an electrically conductive substance
5 into said body in the form of a gel ~~or of microspheres~~, whereby the
6 substance is limited to a localized portion of body tissue;
7 b) guiding said needle apparatus to a desired volume of tissue in need of
8 treatment, and said guiding including use of a non-invasive imaging
9 technique for viewing inside an area of tissue;
10 c) applying said substance to said tissue through said needle apparatus;
11 d) determining that said volume of said tissue is penetrated by said
12 substance; and
13 e) applying RF energy to said substance through an RF electrode to ablate
14 the volume of tissue, wherein said substance serves as an electrode
15 extension conducting said RF energy throughout said volume.

1 2-9. (Cancelled)

1 10. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said needle
2 apparatus further includes a biopsy needle guide through which said hollow core needle is
3 inserted, and said hollow core needle functions as said RF electrode.

1 11-14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said substance
2 includes an image contrasting agent for use in said determining of the volume of tissue
3 penetrated, ~~and said microspheres are non-metallic.~~

1 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said substance
2 includes a component selected from the group consisting of tissue necrosis agents, thereby
3 causing selective tissue necrosis in said target tissue.

1 18-19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein each microsphere
2 includes a container holding therein a substance for providing image enhancement for use in
3 determining said volume when said imaging technique is ultrasound.

1 21. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said volume is in a
2 prostate, and wherein said method is for treating a condition selected from the group consisting
3 of BPH and prostate cancer, and wherein said inserting is accomplished by a method selected
4 from the group consisting of Transrectal, Transurethral and Transperineal approach.

1 22-23. (Cancelled)

1 24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said method is applied for the
2 treatment of a body part selected from group consisting of prostate, liver, uterus, bladder, kidney,
3 lung, and breast.

1 25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said inserting is accomplished
2 using an approach selected from the group consisting of percutaneous, laparoscopic, and
3 endoscopic.

1 26-29. (Cancelled)

1 30. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said guiding is further
2 performed using a device selected from the group consisting of biopsy apparatus, laparoscope,
3 endoscope, hysteroscope, MRI, CT scan, and ultrasound imaging apparatus.

1 31-32. (Cancelled)

1 33. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said inserting is
2 performed by at least one method selected from the group consisting of percutaneous, through an
3 incision, through a natural body opening, and a laparoscopic approach.

1 34-36. (Cancelled)

1 37. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said substance
2 further includes a chemo agent selected from the group consisting of hypertonic saline solution,
3 acetic acid, ethanol and other tissue necrosing agents, and wherein said substance further
4 includes a binding agent.

1 38. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein ~~said substance~~
2 ~~includes said microspheres, wherein each said microsphere further includes a gas.~~

1 39. (Original) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein said gas is selected from the
2 group consisting of air, helium, fluorocarbon, and carbon dioxide.

1 40. (Original) A method as recited in claim 37 wherein said binding agent is selected
2 from the group consisting of biomaterial, polymer, biodegradable polymer, a suspension agent, a
3 derivative of a protein, fat, collagen, and oil.

1 41. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said substance
2 includes a conductive component is selected from the group consisting of conductive polymers,
3 conductive agents, conductive elements, carbon particles, and metallic suspensions.

1 42. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said microspheres
2 include

- 3 a) ~~biodegradable sealed containers; and~~
4 b) a conductive gel within said container.

1 43. (New) A method for treating a localized portion of body tissue comprising:

- 2 a) inserting a needle apparatus in a body, said apparatus including at least
3 one hollow core needle for delivering an electrically conductive substance
4 into said body, said substance conveyed in a non-metallic, bio-absorbable
5 microsphere container, whereby the substance is limited to a localized
6 portion of body tissue;
7 b) guiding said needle apparatus to a desired volume of tissue in need of
8 treatment, and said guiding including use of a non-invasive imaging
9 technique for viewing inside an area of tissue;
10 c) applying said substance to said tissue through said needle apparatus;
11 d) determining that said volume of said tissue is penetrated by said
12 substance; and

13 e) applying RF energy to said substance through an RF electrode to ablate
14 the volume of tissue, wherein said substance serves as an electrode
15 extension conducting said RF energy throughout said volume.
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